A Short, Legal, Medicinal, Useful, Safe, Easie

PRESCRIPTION

To recover Our Kingdom, Church, Nation from their present dangerous, distractive, destructive

CONFUSION

And worse than

Bedlam Madnesse;

SERIOUSLY

Recommended to all *English Freemen* who desire Peace, Safety, Liberty, Settlement.

By *William Prynne*, Esq; a Bencher of *Lincolns-Inne*.

Judges 19. 30.
Consider of it, take advice, and speak your mindes.

Prov. 12, 19, 20.
Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace is joy: There shall no evil happen to the just, but the wicked shall be filled with mischief.

LONDON:
Printed in the Year of General *Monck's* Invasion, 1659.

A ſhort, legal, medicinal, uſeful, ſafe, eaſy, *Preſcription*, &c.

THe Ambition, Treachery, Turbulency, Avarice, and late infuſed Jeſuiticall Principles of ſome ſwaying Officers in the Parliaments Army, aſpiring after the Supream Authority, Government, and publick Revenues of our three Kingdomes, having ſo far corrupted their Judgments, ſeared their Conſciences, depraved their Wills, and hardned their Hearts, as openly, frequently to violate all ſacred Oaths, Vows, Covenants, Obligations, Truſts, Commiſſions, Engagements, to the late King, his Heirs and Succeſſors; the old Parliament, Kingdome, Nation; (for whoſe defence, they were originally raiſed, Commiſſioned) and to their own new-created Anti-Parliamentary Junctoes, Conventions, Protectors, and Conventicles, which they have all ſucceſſively ſubverted, engroſſing the Soveraign Royall, and Parliamental Power into their own hands, a *oppoſing and advancing themſelves* (by meer Treachery, Perjury, Violence, and other *deſperate wayes of unrighteouſneſſe*) like that man *of ſin, and Myſtery of Iniquity, above all that is worſhipped and called God*; making no leſſe then three publick Revolutions of our Government, and forcibly diſſolving two Parliaments (as they deemed them) of their own modelling, b *convening*, within ſix Moneths ſpace, laſt paſt; and thereby made our formerly renowned Nations, the ſcorn, reproach, wonder, deriſion of all the world; themſelves the Monſters of Men, the ſhame of *Chriſtianity*, *Chivalry*; expoſed our three Nations to the uttermoſt extremity of danger, by new unpreſidented Anarchies, Diviſions, Encroachments upon their Hereditary Rights, Liberties, Properties, cauſed a totall decay of all ſorts of Trade, Juſtice, Legall proceedings at home, and occaſioned a ſpeedy, much feared Invaſion from our potent combined Popiſh adverſaries abroad, when thus miſerably diſtracted, diſcontented, impoveriſhed, and totally diſabled to repulſe them: It is high time for every publick-ſpirited Eliſhman, in this ſtrange, diſtracting Confuſion, (which hath almoſt as much divided, diſcontented all conſcientious Officers, Souldiers in the Army, Navy, as the people of all Callings, Conditions) to contribute their beſt advice, by all juſt, legall, hopefull, ſpeedy wayes, agreeable with the Lawes of God, and the Land, and thoſe Rights, Liberties of the people, (the defence whereof all Officers, Souldiers in the Army, have ſo frequently, conſtantly avowed they were principally raiſed, and Reſolved to defend,

a 2 *Theſſ.* 2. 3. 4.

b *See their Declaration*, May 6. 1659.

* *See their collection of Engagements, Remonſtrances, &c. for ſetling the Subjects in their juſt Liberties and Freedoms*, London, 1657.

defend, though they have hitherto failed in their promiſes) to recover us out of the Labyrinth of our almoſt inextricable amazing Confuſions, ſettle our pernicious diſtractions, and prevent that viſible, imminent, univerſall deſolation, elſe likely to fall upon our Church, State, Nation, Religion, beyond all poſſibility of eſcape, through the Army Officers rath deſtructive Counſells, and violations of their Truſts, Oaths, Engagements, both as Souldiers, Chriſtians, and Members of the Kingdome.

The onely juſt, legall, probable means now left that I can preſcribe, both for our Nations, Churches, Armies preſent and future ſafety too (if they will cordially and Chriſtianly ſubmit thereto) as they ought in Conſcience, Juſtice, prudence) is,

c *See my Plea for the Lords, p. 43. 51, to 60.*

1. For all the antient Nobility of the Kingdome (the c *Hereditary Great Counſell and Counſellors of the Nation* in all Actuall *Interregnums*, and *publick Confuſions*, (as our Hiſtorians, Law-books, and the Commons themſelves in the long Parliament Reſolved) both by Cuſtome, Law, Right) to aſſemble themſelves by Common conſent at *Weſtminſter*, or ſo many of them at leaſt, or their Heirs if dead, who conſtantly adhered to the long Parliament; and there to iſſue out Writs according to the Statute of 16 *Caroli cap.* 1. on the third Monday of *November* next, *under 12 or more of their hands and Seals*, for a free and legall Election of Knights, Citizens, Burgeſſes, Barons, in every City, County, Borough, Port, according to former uſage, to appear at the Parliament-houſe in *Weſtminſter*, the third *Monday* in *January* next enſuing, at a Parliament then and there to be held, in ſuch manner and form as this Act preſcribes; wherein ſuch Propoſalls and Counſells may by common conſent be purſued, as may through Gods bleſſing, ſoon reſtore our priſtine Peace, Trade, Honour, Wealth, Proſperity, Felicity, Settlement, and ſecure us from all future changes.

2ly. For all Freeholders in every County of the Kingdome, at the next County Court in *November*, to meet together, and make choiſe of the ableſt, honeſteſt, wiſeſt, ſtouteſt Gentlemen for their Sheriffs, to keep the Peace of the County, command the *Militia*, ſuppreſſe all Inſurrections, elect, return Knights, Citizens, Burgeſſes, to ſerve in Parliament, and execute the Office of a Sheriff; it being their antient legal Right and Priviledge, by ſpeciall Grants of our Kings, both in and out of Parliament, which none in late, or preſent power ought to encroach upon, or deprive them of, and they are all now bound to exerciſe and maintain for their own preſervation and ſafety. This their right I ſhall clearly evidence beyond contradiction.

1 By the peoples antient Right *Edward the Confeſſors time, or before*, in their *Folkmote* to chuſe an *Heretoke* (a Baron or perſon of quality) in every County, in nature of a Captain, who had the power of the County and Militia in every ſhire, ſicut et Vicecomites Provinciarum et Comitatuum eligi debent per ſingulos Comitatus in pleno Folkmoto: *as Sheriffs of Provinces and Counties ought to be choſen in every County*; as you may read at large in Mr. *Lambards* Archaion, p. 135 *de Heretochiis*; in Sir *Henry Spelmans* Gloſſarium, *Dux & Heretochius*, p. 232, 348 349. My Soveraign power of Parliaments, part 2. p. 24, 25. *Cooks* 2 Inſtitutes, p. 174, 175.

2ly.

2 By Rot. Clauſ. Anno 16 *Johannis Regis*, part 2. m. 2 dorſo. *Dominus Rex conceſſit Baronibus ſuis, Militibus & liberè tenentibus de* Cornubia, *quod habeant Vicecomitem de aliquo ipſorum* **ad Electionem eorum.** *Idem vero Barones, Milites, & liberè tenentes conceſſerunt* Willielmo Wiſe, *quod habeat Hundredum de* Eſtwenleſer *ad feodi firmam, ſibi & hæredibus ſuis imperpetuum, per dimidium marci Argenti, ad feſtum Sancti* Michaelis *reddendum.*

3ly. By Rot. Pat. An. 5 H. 3. memb. 6. H. *Dei gratia &c. Archiepiſcopis, Epiſcopis, Comitibus Baronibus, Militibus, libere tenentibus & aliis omnibus de Com.* Cornub. *ſalutem. Sciatis quod conceſſimus Vobis quod liberam habeatis electionem eligendi vobis in Vicecomitem noſtrum unum de Com.* Cornub. *Et ideo vobis mandamus quod eligatis tres fideles & diſcretes de Com* Cornub. *& illos nobis præſentari fac. apud* London in Octab. *Clauſi Paſche, & nos unum ex illis tribus prout nobis placuerit. Vobis dabimus ad Vicecom. tem. Et interim commiſſimus Com. tatum illum* Cornub. *cum omnibus illis quæ ad nos pertinebt dilecto & fideli noſtro* Reginaldo *de* Valletorta *cuſtodiend. vobiſque mandamus quatinus eidem* Reginaldo *uſq; ad prædictum terminum ſitis intendentes & reſpondentes in omnibus, tanquam Vic. noſtro & ballivo noſtro. Et in hujus, &c. T. M. de* Burgo, *&c. apud* Weſtm. xviij *die* Jan. *anno regni noſtro* 5 o. *De Com. Cornub.*

4ly. By Bat. 10. H. 3. memb. 4. *Rex Archiepiſcopis, Epiſcopis, Abbatibus, Prioribus, comitibus Baronibus, Militibus, liberetenentibus & omnibus aliis de communibus* Sumerſet & Dorſ. *ſalutem. Sciatis quod electioni quam ſ ciſtis de* Willo: *fil* Henr. *ad Vic. noſtrum faciend. de Comitat.* Sumerſet & Dorſet *aſſenſum noſtrum præbuimus. Et ideo vobis mandamus quod ipſum tanquam Vic noſtro quamdiu nobis placuerit intendentes ſitis & reſpondentes. In cujus, &c. Teſte Rege apud* Winton xxvij *die* Jan. *De Vic. electo in Com. Sum. & Dorſet.*

5ly. By *Mat. Paris, Mat. Weſtminſter, Daniel*, and others, who record, That in the 45 year of King *Henry* the 3d, the King placed new Sheriffs in every County, displacing the Sheriffs the Barons and people had made; whereupon the people in every County, manfully reſiſted the Sheriffs, and would not obey, nor regard nor anſwer them in any thing, whereat the King was much troubled. Much leſs then ought they now to obey any Sheriffs obtruded on them by the Army Officers, or any other illegal uſurped power.

6ly. By the Statute of *Articuli ſuper chartas*, Anno 28 E. 1. chap. 8. *The King hath granted to his people*, **that they ſhall have the Election of Sheriffs in every Shire** (*where the Shrivalty is not of fee*) **if they will.** And chap. 13. *For as much as the King hath granted* **the Election of Sheriffs to the Commons of the Shire**, *the King willeth, that* **they ſhall chuſe ſuch Sheriffs as ſhall not charge them**, *and that they ſhall not put in any* Officer *for* rewards or bribes. *And that they ſhall not lodge too oft in one place, nor with poor perſons, nor with men of Religion.* By which Statutes, (being but confirmations of the peoples former rights by cuſtom, or Kings grants, on which ſome of them encroached, which was the occaſion of theſe acts) all Counties uſed to elect their Sheriffs: And if they elected any mean or unfitting perſon, as they ſometimes did, He then commanded them by his Writs to chuſe another who was fit to diſcharge that Office; witneſs this memorable Record enſuing.

De Vic. elig. Cl. 31 E.2.m. 13. dorſ. *Rex Coronatoribus & toti communitati Comitatum* Salop. & Stafford. *ſalutem. Cum nuper pro communi utilitate regni noſtri inter alia conceſſerimus populo ejuſdem regni, quod habeat ſi voluerit electionem Vic. in ſingulis comitatibus dicti regni cum opus fuerit Vicecom. prædict. in eiſdem, ubi videlicet Vicecomes de feodo non exiſtit. Ac* Rietus de Harleigh *per vos in Vic. comitatuum prædictorum nuper electus, ad officium illud faciendum minus ſufficiens eſt, ſicut ex teſtimonio fidedigno accepimus: Vobis mandamus quod aliquem qui melius ſciat & poſſit officio Vic. dictorum comitatum intendere & utilior fuerit ad idem officium exequendum in Vic. eorundem comitatuum pro vobis, ſi volueritis, eligatis, & ipſum ſic electum per aliquem legalem & circumſpectum hominem ex parte veſtra cum literis, veſtris patentibus ſub ſigillis ſex de diſcretioribus & probioribus Mil. eorundem comitatuum* Theſſ. & Baronib. noſtris de Scaccario in craſtino Sancti Michaelis *prox futuri ſine dilatione præſentetis, ut ipſe tunc ibidem præſtito ſicut moris eſt ſacramento, extunc ea faciat & exerceat, que ad officium Vicecomitis pertinent in com. prædictis. Et habeatis ibi tunc hoc breve. Sciturus, quod ſi talem per vos electum modo prædicto non præſentaveritis coram præfatis* Theſſ. & Baronibus *noſtris in craſtino prædicto, prædicti Theſ. & Barones extunc nobis de alio Vicecomite Vobis præficiendo in defectu veſtri providebunt.* Teſte Rege apud Sarum. vvi. die April.

8ly. By Clauſ. 12 E.3. pars 2.m. 15. Clauſ. 13 E.3. pars 3. dorſ. 16. Clauſ. 14 E.3. pars 2.m.3. **De Vicecomitibus Eligendis per totam Angliam:** wherein are ſeveral Writs iſſued authorizing and commanding the people to elect their Sheriffs in every County throughout England, with other Records to the like effect over-tedious to recite at large.

9ly. By Mr. *Lambards Archaion.* f. 135. and Sir *Edward Cooks* 2. Inſtitutes on Magna Charta, p. 174, 175, 558, 559, 566. who reſolve, *That Sheriffs in antient times were and oft to be choſen by the Freeholders, of the County in the County Court,* as Conſervators of the Peace, Coroners, Verderers, Conſtables, Petty Conſtables, were then and ſince Elected likewiſe by the People; as well by the Kings Writs, as without them, in caſes of neceſſity.

10ly. By the conſtant cuſtome of all Corporations which are Counties within themſelves, having power Annually to chuſe Sheriffs only by the Kings Charters, without any ſpecial Writ, as *London, Briſtol, Glocester, York, Canterbury, Coventry,* &c. uſe to do. Therefore every County in *England* and *Wales,* may do the like without any ſpeciall Writs, being a neceſſary annuall, antient ſtanding Office, eſpecially in theſe confuſed times, when none have any legall Authority to iſſue out Writs or Commiſſions to elect or ſwear Sheriffs, by vertue of the premiſed Statutes: And the Army-Officers, with other ſelf-created Uſurping Powers, may as lawfully obtrude Mayors, Sheriffs, and other Officers on every Corporation of *England* without their Election, and deprive them of their freedome to elect them; as thruſt Sheriffs, Juſtices of the Peace, Coroners, or other eligible Officers upon Counties; and rob them of this their juſt ancient right and priviledge; now ſtrenuouſly to be revived, aſſerted for their common ſafety, againſt all encroachments thereon.

The

The Statute of *Weſtminſter* 1. ch. 5. enacting, declaring, *That all Elections ought to be free, and not* **diſturbed by force of Arms** *under great forfeitures by no Great men* **nor others.**

3ly. Let all Counties, Cities, Boroughs, Ports, make choice of the wiſeſt, ableſt, ſtout ſt, diſcreeteſt Perſons, ſuch as are beſt affected to Peace, Settlement, and the Nations publike Intereſt, for their Knights, Citizens and Burgeſſes; not of raw, unexperienced, timorous, or time-ſerving, unſtable, ſelf-ſeeking, turbulent men.

4ly. Let all Counties, Cities, Noblemen, Gentlemen, Yeomen, Clergymen, and Freemen of the Nation, unanimouſly reſolve, to obey no new, illegall, tyrannical, upſtart Powers, Officers, Conventicles, Committees or Councils of men whatſoever forcibly obtruded on them; nor to execute any of their Orders or Commands; but onely to obey ſuch legal Officers as themſelves ſhall legally elect, or a Free Parliament duly elected by them: nor pay any Taxes, Cuſtoms, Impoſts, Exciſes, Contributions whatſoever, to any Officers, Souldiers, Collectors, but ſuch as ſhall be impoſed by common conſent in a Free and Lawfull Parliament, it being their antient Birthright (for defence whereof the Army was firſt raiſed) ratified not only by ſundry antient Statutes, and the late *Petition of Right*, but ſeveral *Acts, Votes, Declarations, Judgments* of the laſt long Parliament of King *Charls*, acknowledged in the *Inſtrument of Government* it ſelf, the late *Petition and Advice*, the *Armies* own former *Declarations*, and the late diſſolved *Junto* in their very laſt *Knack* of the 12. of this inſtant *October*, their Plea and Papers ſince.

5ly. If any Officers, and Souldiers of the Army, out of faction, ambition, ſelf-ends, or Jeſuitical ſeduction, ſhall obſtinately, traiterouſly, maliciouſly, or tyrannically oppoſe the People in their Elections of Sheriffs, Knights, Citizens, Burgeſſes, or levy any Taxes, Exciſes upon them by armed violence, contrary to all their former-forfeited, now-expired Commiſſions, Declarations, Engagements; let them unanimouſly declare and proceed againſt them as profeſſed publick Enemies, Traitors to their Native Countrey; who by their former and late Treacheries, Rebellions, and unwarrantable proceedings againſt all their Superiors, (tranſcending all Preſidents in profane or ſacred Stories) have actually in Law, Juſtice, forfeited not onely all their Commiſſions, Commands, and Arrears of pay, but their very lives, Lands, Eſtates; and that our whole 3. Nations by their Solemn League and Covenant, for their own future preſervation, are obliged to bring them to *publike Juſtice*, as themſelves have proceeded againſt hundreds, nay thouſands of other Delinquents not half ſo criminal as themſelves: and thereupon intreat all other Officers, Souldiers in the Army, who have any fear of God, or love to themſelves, their poſterities, or Native Countrie remaining in their breſts, as *Moſes* did the Congregation of *Iſrael* in the Rebellion of *Korah, Dathan*, and *Abiram*, who mutinied the People againſt him and *Aaron*, Numb. 16. *Depart I pray ye from the Tents of theſe wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, leſt ye be conſumed in all their ſins. So they gat up from the Tabernacle of* Korah, Dathan, *and* Abiram *on every ſide.* And as many Officers, Souldiers, as ſhall thereupon deſert the Tents of their Rebellious Commanders, and contribute

tribute their assistance for the speedy calling and safe sitting of a Free, Lawfull Parliament, without any future mutinies, to interrupt or dissolve it when convened according to the premised Statute of 16 *Caroli*, c. 1. let them be assured of their full Arrears, and indemnity for what is past, which none else but a Free and Lawful Parliament can grant them; all other Indemnities being void in Law. And if this will not satisfie, let them beware, *lest the earth cleave asunder that is under them; and then swallow them up alive, with their houses, men, goods, and all appertaining to them, and they perish from among the Congregation*, as *Korah*, *Dathan* and *Abiram*, with their families and adherents did, by this or some other exemplary Judgments, and a universal Insurrection of our three whole discontented, oppressed, ruined Nations against them, which they may justly fear and expect, if they believe there is a *righteous God that judgeth in the earth, a Lord of hosts* able to scatter, punish, execute vengeance on them here, and cast them *into hell* for ever *hereafter*, for their manifold unlamented, reiterated, transcendent Rebellions: or repute these Texts Canonical, which I shall recommend to their saddest Meditations. Prov. 29. 10. *He that being often reproved hardneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy*, (as the late *Anti-Parliamentary Junctos*, and *Protectors* have been) Prov. 11. 21. *Though hand go in hand, yet the wicked shall not go unpunished.* Psal. 68. 21. *God shall wound the head of his Enemies, and the hairy scalp of such a one as goeth on still in his Trespasses.* Ezech. 24. 14. *I the Lord have spoken it, it shall come to passe, I will do it; I will not go back, neither will I spare, neither will I repent; but according to thy ways and accordings I will recompence, and they shall judge thee, saith the Lord.* Col. 3. 25. *He that doth wrong, shall receive according to the wrong done, and there is no respect of persons with God*; who can in a moment as easily destroy an whole Army, and great host of men (as he did * *Sennacheribs, Jeroboams*, and other Armies) as any one single person.

* 2 Kings 13. 35. 2 Chron. 13. 16, 17.

October the last, 1659. the day of *King*-condemning *John Bradshawes* death, and translation to his proper place and arraignment in the *Highest Court of Justice.*

FINIS.